venting the thefts of gold. The following measures are taken to prevent gold theft in the K.G.F. Mines :—

(a) Special Detective teams are posted for patrolling according to a programme made by the Chief Security Officer. Such programmes are kept strictly secret and are indicated to the Team just before the start of the shift. The places to be visited are identified in consultation with the Mine Managers as well as based on internal information.

(b) A special Intelligence Team has been constituted to oversee the work of the underground detectives and collect intelligence.

(c) All the workmen, when they come up, are searched by stripping at the shaft tops. Those suspected to be indulging in gold stealing by hiding the metal inside the body, are taken to the hospital for screening.

(d) All the tools and equipment, brought up from underground, are thoroughly searched for any hidden precious metal before being allowed to be taken away.

(e) A hand-held electronic metal detector, imported from U.K. though not sensitive enough to detect small quantities of gold, is yet used frequently as a tool to create fear of detection among the workmen, thereby curbing such activities.

3. In the metallurgical plants and chemical laboratory, the following measures are in vogue :—

(a) All employees, including officers, are subject to thorough search by stripping.

(b) No personal belongings are allowed to be taken inside.

(c) All tools and equipment before leaving the plants are thoroughly searched.

(d) All important points in the process circuit, where gold is visible, are manned by special duty security personnel.

4. Besides the above, there are certain measures taken by the company to prevent the smuggling of gold which are as follows :—

Rewards Scheme for informants is in vogue both for employees and general public. The maximum limit of reward is Rs. 5000/- or 5% of the value of gold involved.

Under Section 6 and 13 of Mysore Mines Regulation Act, 1906, a fine not exceeding Rs. 500/- or imprisonment for one year or both can be imposed on persons caught in gold stealing at KGF. The company has taken up with the State Government a proposal for enhancing the conviction period and the amount of fine as they are considered to be too meagre.

Proposal to shift the office of the Central Water Commission from Burla in Orissa to Raipur in Madhya Pradesh

*258. SHRI JAGADISH JANI : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether some suggestions have been given by the officials of the Central Water Commission, Hyderabad Circle, to shift the Central Water Commission office from Burla (Orissa) to Raipur in Madhya Pradesh;

(b) whether there has been resentment among the people of Orissa against this move; and

(c) if so, what action the Central Government propose to take in the matter ?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND) : (a) The Central Water Commission have no proposal

under consideration at present to shift its Offices from Burla (Orissa) to any other place.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Winding up of the Hindi News Agencies

*259. SHRI RAMCHANDRA BHARADWAJ :
SHRIMATI MAIMOONA SULTAN :

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have taken final decision to wind up the two Hindi news agencies on the recommendations of the committee headed by Shri R.N. Goenka; and

(b) if so, what alternative arrangements have been made to feed the Hindi, Urdu and other language papers with news ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI V.N. GADGIL) : (a) and (b) The Government did not take any decision to wind up the two Hindi news agencies. In fact, it is in no position to do so as in pursuance of its deep commitment to the freedom of the press, it would not like to interfere with the internal functioning of the newspapers and news agencies. However in view of the fact that these two agencies had become almost defunct and had reached a point of no return, the Government sought the help and co-operation of the leading editors and owners of language newspapers for ensuring satisfactory service to the language newspapers. As a result of these deliberations, a committee under the Chairmanship of Shri R. N. Goenka came to be appointed by them which after examining the matter in detail, came to the conclusion that it should be possible for the existing English news agencies, namely United News of India and Press Trust of India, to provide requisite service in the Indian languages by strengthening their existing infrastructure suitably. The Government agrees with this view.

Inter-state irrigation projects of Maharashtra

*260. SHRI VITHALARAO MADHAVRAO JADHAV :
DR. (SHRIMATI) NAJMA HEPTULLA :

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) what is the number of inter-state irrigation projects of Maharashtra which are yet to be cleared by the Central Government; and

(b) when the work on the Lendi project in which Maharashtra and Andhra Pradesh States are involved is likely to be started ?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND) : (a) 5 Major projects namely, Lendi, Lower Penganga, Tillari, Dudhganga and Upper Tapp.

(b) This would depend on clearance of the project and provision of funds in the State Plan. The concerned State Governments have not informed the Centre when the project would be started.

Use of Brand name by Horlicks

@1424. SHRI SURESH KALMADI : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that while granting expansion to Horlicks to set up the Rajamundry (Andhra Pradesh) plant, a condition was placed that after a year or so of the Rajamundry

@Previously Unstarred Question 868 transferred from the 5th May 1986.